

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Civil Division - Law

DAVID PAYO,  
Plaintiff

v.

DOCTOR D.W.  
STECHSCHULTE JR.,  
in his official  
Capacity as Medical  
Director of the  
Allegheny County Jail,  
ORLANDO HARPER, in  
his official capacity as  
Warden of the Allegheny  
County Jail,  
WELPATH, in their  
official capacity as  
Medical Provider of the  
Pennsylvania Department  
of Corrections,  
DOCTOR ANDREW J.  
DANCHA, in his individual  
and official capacity as  
Regional Medical Director  
at SCI - Laurel Highlands,  
Practising Nurse Mathews,  
(CRNP) in his individual  
and official capacity at  
SCI - Laurel Highlands  
Defendant's

Case No.

GD-17-012123

Jury Trial Demanded

AMENDED  
COMPLAINT

U.S.C. § 1983  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
ACTION in  
State Court

20 JUN -2 AM 9:54  
DEPT. OF COURT RECORDS  
CIVIL/FAMILY DIVISION  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY PA

FILED

## JURISDICTION

Original jurisdiction of the Common Pleas Court is exclusive pursuant to 42 Pa. Con. Sta. Ann. § 931 (b) in this matter. Venue is also properly addressed in Allegheny County Pennsylvania.

## II PARTIES

- 1) Plaintiff, David Payo is an incarcerated State inmate currently housed in State Correctional Institute (hereinafter) SCI, Pine Grove, with a business address of 189 Ryock Road Indiana, PA 15701,
- 2) Defendant, Doctor D. W. Shechschulte Jr. is the Medical Director at the Allegheny County Jail (hereinafter) ACJ, with a business address of 950 Second Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219,
- 3) Defendant, Orlando Harper is the Warden of the ACJ with a business address of 950 Second Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219

- 4) Defendant, Wellpath is the current Medical Provider of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (hereinafter) DOC, with a business address of 600 North 12th Street Suite 100 Lemoyne, PA 17043.
- 5) Defendant, Andrew J. Danha is the Regional Medical Director at SCI-Laurel Highlands with a business address of 5706 Glades Pike, Somerset, PA 15501
- 6) Defendant, Nurse Mathews, is a nurse practitioner at SCI-Laurel Highlands with a business address of 5706 Glades Pike Somerset, PA 15501

### III FACTS

- 7) Plaintiff David Payo was arrested and charged with robbery on or around June 8, 2017 and incarcerated at the ACJ.
- 8) Plaintiff was recovering from a Spinal Fusion Laminectomy surgery performed at UPMC Shady-Side Hospital by Neurosurgeon Doctor Ghassan Bejjani on February 29, 2016.
- 9) Plaintiff upon admission to the ACJ had documented proof of a pain management

regimen of 3600 mg's Gabapentin, 40mg Baclofen and 1800 mg's of Ibuprofen daily.

- 10) Plaintiff's chronic pain management medication was terminated upon his arrival at the ACT for "NO" medically justified reason other than to cause him undo hardship and pain and suffering without regard to plaintiff's ongoing medical disability.
- 11) Plaintiff asserts that on or around June 14, 2017 while housed on Pod 4A of the ACT, Plaintiff fell causing a re-injury to his ailing back condition.
- 12) Plaintiff contends he was transferred to the ACT Infirmary Pod 5B where x-rays were performed and Gabapentin was administered by the Medical Director Dr. Stechschulte, even though the jail's policy is a Gabapentin free facility.
- 13) Plaintiff contends that he was never informed of the x-ray results nor were any other tests scheduled (MRI, Cat Scan) to check for soft tissue damage, on around June 20, 2017 Plaintiff was sent back to general population and his Gabapentin was subjected to a gradual discontinuation.
- 14) Plaintiff avers that the Medical Director's review of said x-rays should have verified the instrument in plaintiff's lumbar back thus given credence to proper medical necessity to pain manage

- 15) Plaintiff asserts that Defendant, Dr. Shechschulte should never have terminated plaintiff's much needed nerve pain medication Gabapentin and also scheduled a lumbar MRI or Cat Scan to rule out soft tissue damage as the result of plaintiff re-injuring his back from the fall.
- 16) Plaintiff asserts that after the discontinuance of said nerve pain medication Gabapentin, Defendant Dr. Shechschulte did not prescribe a substitute for this medication leaving plaintiff in considerable pain.

#### IV.

#### DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE

- 17) Plaintiff incorporates paragraph 1 thru 16 as though the same were set fully forth herein and after at length.
- 18) Plaintiff brings this action under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- 19) This action arises from the U.S. Constitution's Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment clause to remain free from cruel and unusual punishment and;

- a) Pain and suffering,
- b) Deliberate Indifference,
- c) Inadequate medical care.

20) Plaintiff asserts that it is Warde Orlando Harper's responsibility for all aspects inside the ACJ, he is required to implement a sick call policy that adequately assures all inmates with any and all medical issues that arises to be addressed,

21) Plaintiff contends that he filed dozens of sick call requests for Two (2) months upon his arrival at the ACJ without ever being called to have his medical issues addressed,

22) Plaintiff contends that it wasn't until his initial filing of this said complaint that the sick call procedure changed and a nurse came on the Pod several times per week,

23) Plaintiff asserts that the policies, practice and customs in practice at the ACJ's medical department are still not in compliance with County, State or Federal standards,

24) Plaintiff contends that under the color of State Law, defendant Orlando Harper role as Warden of the ACT facility including the medical department falls under the umbrella of his overall responsibilities in concert with other defendants violate plaintiff's Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment Rights and Article I § 13 of the Pennsylvania Constitution's right to remain free from cruel and unusual punishment by providing

a) adequate medical care,

b) Pain relief medication

c) adequate medical tests

25) Plaintiff incorporates paragraph 1 thru 24 as though the same were set fully forth herein after at length.

26) Plaintiff brings this action under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

27) This action arises from the U.S. Constitution's Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment's clause to remain free from cruel and unusual

Punishment and;

- a) pain and suffering,
- b) deliberate indifference,
- c) adequate medical care.

## V

### DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE

- 28) Plaintiff asserts that he was transferred from the ACJ into the DOC, SCI Laurel Highlands on or around March 19, 2019 in which he was under the medical care of Medical Director Dr. Andrew Dancho with Well Path as the DOC's medical provider.
- 29) Plaintiff contends that after several attempts at other pain medications (Kepra) (Pamelor) which cause adverse reactions, Dr. Dancho approved a low dose of Gabapentin.
- 30) Plaintiff asserts that at this facility he had to walk 1/4 mile to each meal and medical pill line, in which his gabapentin was not sufficient any longer.



- 31) Plaintiff continue to request an increase of gabapentin through the sick call procedure at Laurel Highlands and also ibuprophen, Dr. Dancho approved the ibuprophen but refused to increase the gabapentin even though plaintiff's back condition continued to get worse,
- 32) Plaintiff contends that he showed Dr. Dancho documented records where he was prescribed 1200 mg's of gabapentin 3 times daily in which this defendant ignored or refused an increase of this medication,

## VI

### DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE

- 33) Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 thru 32 as though the same were set forth herein and after at length,
- 34) Plaintiff brings this action under the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

35) This action arises from the U.S. Constitution's Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment clause and Article 1 § 13 of the Pennsylvania Constitution to remain free from cruel and unusual punishment and;

- a) Pain and Suffering,
- b) Deliberate Indifference,
- c) Inadequate medical care.

36) Plaintiff contends that on or around the Month of January 2020, he was required to consult with Nurse Mathews for all of plaintiff's sick call visits.

37) Plaintiff asserts that at every visit ~~this~~ Nurse Mathews charged plaintiff the sick call co-pay and never prescribed anything for the medical issue in question.

38) Plaintiff contends that Nurse Mathews discontinued plaintiff Ibuprofen anti-inflammatory medication because as he said it was having adverse effect on plaintiff's kidneys, even though plaintiff continued

to take Ibuprofen on a regular bases in which all blood test showed NO adverse effects after-words,

39) Plaintiff asserts that he informed Nurse Mathe of his continued use of Ibuprofen with NO adverse effects on his Kidney's in which Nurs Mathews still refused to re-order plaintiffs Ibuprofen.

40) Plaintiff asserts that this deliberate refusal to oder any anti-inflammatory medication even to substitute for the Ibuprofen is in fact unorthodox for a medical professional and a devious effort to cause undo harm and pain and suffering.

41) Plaintiff contends that on or around March 17 2020, he was accused of threatening and office and sent to restrictive housing unit (RHU), in which Two (2) gabapentin tablets were alleged to have been found in plaintiff property.

42) Plaintiff contends that because of the discovery of contraband medication assumed to be plaintiffs Dr. Dancha discontinued said medication deliberately depriving plaintiff of any effective means of pain relief.

43) Plaintiff contends that the assumption of Dr. Dandha in concert with Nurse Mathews and other defendants deliberately depriving plaintiff his "chronic pain regimen" medications with sadistic intent to cause pain and suffering and cruel and unusual punishment that plaintiff is ~~guaranteed~~ guaranteed against by the U.S. Constitution

## VII

### CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT

44) Plaintiff incorporates paragraph 1 thru 43 as though the same were set fully forth herein and after at length.

45) Plaintiff brings this action under the civil Rights Act of 1964,

46) This action arises from the U.S. Constitution's Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment clause and Article 1 § 13 of the Pennsylvania Constitution

VIII

REQUESTED RELIEF

47) Plaintiff's requested relief is as follows;

- a) Compensatory damages \$ 250,000.00,
- b) Punitive damages \$ 25,000.00,
- c) Any and all addition medical cost,
- d) And and all relief this Court deems just and proper.

IX

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

48) Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies and has still waited patiently for his final appeal to be forwarded,

Date: 5-25-20

Respectfully Submitted

David Poyo

David Poyo #H57147

SCI Pine Grove

189 Fyock Road

Indiana PA 15701

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I David Payo, plaintiff certify that a true and complete copy of the forgoing Amended Complaint has been sent via U.S. First class mail or County Sheriff Service on 25<sup>th</sup> day of ~~the~~ May, 2020; to the following

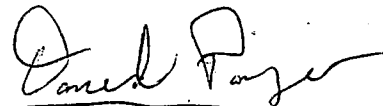
Lee Dellecker  
300 Fort Pitt Commons Bldg.  
445 Fort Pitt Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

WellPath  
600 N. 12th Street  
Suite 100  
Lemoyne, PA 17043

Andrew J. Danha  
SCI - Laurel Highlands  
5706 Glades Pike  
Sumerset, PA 15501

Mr. Matthews - CRNP  
SCI Laurel Highlands  
5706 Glades Pike  
Sumerset PA 15501

Honorable Judge  
Alan Hertzberg  
~~First~~ 414 Grant St.  
City / County Bldg.  
Pittsburgh PA 15219

  
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David Payo Pro-Se